

February 17, 2015

**Veterans Affairs Committee - Public Hearing on**

**Proposed Bill No. 6378, An Act Providing Veterans' Preferences in the Rental Assistance Program and housing Authority Projects**

**Written Testimony of Cathy K. Forcier**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Housing Committee –

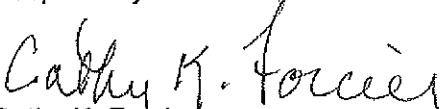
I'd like to thank Representatives Hennessy and Senator Flexer for their good intentions in introducing this bill.

I have been a public housing practitioner for over 25 years. My experience includes being the current President of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials more commonly known as CONN-NAHRO. I am currently the Executive Director of the Wethersfield Housing Authority.

I am fully supportive of the military; my son currently serves. I am fully supportive of housing veterans in our public housing. What I have difficulty with is not treating everyone equally. In housing we have been told over and over to be careful not to discriminate. This proposed bill asks us to discriminate against all the other groups of people who are in dire need of housing, many of whom are in protected classes. As much as I think we owe our veterans our very lives and a great deal of respect and honor, and housing if they need it, how do I discriminate against others at the same time?

I cannot support Proposed Bill No. 6378.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Cathy K. Forcier